MARVEL

13

PAKNADEL · GALÁN · ARCINIEGA

CARNAGE

30 YEARS

Cletus Kasady, the longtime host of the Carnage symbiote, has found a new symbiotic organism to live with called **THE EXTREMBIOTE**.

The result of the fusion of an otherworldly symbiote dragon and Tony Stark's highly advanced **EXTREMIS VIRUS**, the Extrembiote has imbued Cletus with unique tech-based weaponry and abilities he's never known before…and he wants **MORE**.

Dead in Cletus' sights is Brooklyn's own **SPIDER-MAN, MILES MORALES**. The two crossed paths and quickly came to blows, during which Miles unleashed a hypercharged blow of psychic arachnid energy called a **VENOM BLAST**. The jolt short-circuited Cletus' technological components and caused an explosion of energy to erupt from the Extrembiote, injuring Cletus and severely damaging the building in the process.

As Miles fought his way through the collapsing rubble, Cletus made an escape with his companion and lackey Kenneth Neely, a serial killer in his own right, and the two have taken to the sewers to plan their next move…

CARNAGE

CARNAGE REIGNS

ALEX PAKNADEL *WRITER*

FRAN GALÁN *ARTIST*

ERICK ARCINIEGA *COLOR ARTIST*

VC's JOE SABINO *LETTERER*

KENDRICK LIM *COVER ARTIST*

SKAN; PHILIP TAN & RACHELLE ROSENBERG; TAURIN CLARKE *[CONNECTING]*;
RYAN STEGMAN, JP MAYER & DAVE McCAIG [THE OTHER] *VARIANT COVER ARTISTS*

ADAM DEL RE *DESIGN*

KAEDEN McGAHEY & LINDSEY COHICK *ASSISTANT EDITORS*

TOM GRONEMAN & DEVIN LEWIS *EDITORS*

C.B. CEBULSKI *EDITOR IN CHIEF*

MY NAME IS KENNETH NEELY, AND NOT SO VERY LONG AGO, I HAD A WILL OF MY OWN.

BY THE STANDARDS OF MY TIME, I'M A MONSTER--A ***MURDERER***--BUT EVEN I DIDN'T KNOW TRUE EVIL UNTIL I SWAM INTO THE RED WAKE OF THE CREATURE ***CALLED*** CARNAGE.

FOR WEEKS NOW, I'VE BEEN GOADED AND CAJOLED ACROSS THE UNIVERSE WHILE THE BEAST ***GORED*** ITS WAY TO GODHOOD.

EVENTUALLY, I CAME TO REALIZE THAT ITS ASCENSION WOULD MEAN THE END OF EVERYTHING--EVEN ***BLESSED SLAUGHTER***.

SO I SOUGHT OUT THE ONE FORCE IN THE UNIVERSE CAPABLE OF STOPPING IT...

...CLETUS KASADY, A PROLIFIC SERIAL KILLER WHO ALSO HAPPENS TO BE CARNAGE'S FORMER HOST.

WHEN I FOUND HIM, HE WAS USING HIS ***NEW*** OTHER--A HYBRID OF A SYMBIOTE DRAGON AND IRON MAN ARMOR--TO PREY ON DERELICTS IN AN ABANDONED ORPHANAGE.

SO I ***PROVOKED*** HIM IN THE HOPE THAT A TASTE OF MASS MURDER MIGHT BRING HIM BACK TO HIMSELF.

KEN! YOU MADE IT. GOOD FOR YOU, SLICK.

CHECK THIS LITTLE GUY OUT. I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF IT'S ***ALIVE***.

SHOULD I ***NAME*** IT?

THAT MAY HAVE BEEN A ***FATAL MISCALCULATION***.

HSSS

I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE NONE THE WORSE FOR WEAR AFTER THE ***DINER'S COLLAPSE***, MISTER KASADY.*

I'LL ADMIT, WHEN I TOOK THIS ***IRON SYMBIOTE*** GETUP FROM TONY STARK, IT WAS PURELY TO PROVE A POINT. I WASN'T MUCH INTERESTED IN HOW IT WORKED OR ***WHY***, ME AND CARNAGE WERE STILL STILL KICKIN' IT, Y'KNOW?

BUT ***NOW***...

KEN, THIS THING IS A WITCH'S BREW OF STICKY POSSIBILITIES.

*CARNAGE REIGNS ALPHA. --ED

UH...SPEAKING OF CARNAGE, PERHAPS NOW WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO DISCUSS ***NEXT STEPS***...

WISH I COULD, KEN, BUT I'M AFRAID IT'LL HAVE TO WAIT.

YOU SEE, I'M AN ITSY-BITSY BIT ***BANGED UP*** HERE.

"WHEN THAT MORALES KID ZAPPED ME, HE ***DID*** SOMETHING TO THE IRON MAN TECH INSIDE ME. HE MUST HAVE ***FRIED*** IT SOMEHOW."

I CAN... ***FEEL IT*** COOKING ME FROM THE INSIDE OUT. LIKE I'VE GOT A DAMN ***MICROWAVE*** IN MY CHEST.

HSSSSS

STILL, WHEN THE KID WOKE THE ARMOR UP, IT WAS... ***INTERESTING***.

HRK! MY GOD, THE ***SMELL***...

FOR A SPLIT SECOND, I WAS ***CONNECTED***. I WAS IN THE ***WIRES***.

"I USED TO THINK ***THE HIVE*** WAS THE BEST WAY TO REMAKE THE WORLD IN MY IMAGE.

"I WAS WRONG."

-SIGH-

SO, WHAT'S OUR NEXT MOVE, MISTER KASADY?

WELL, KEN... WHERE WOULD YOU GO IF ***YOUR CAR*** HAD A ***SPARK PLUG*** THAT NEEDED REPLACING?

ELSEWHERE...

"YOU'D TAKE IT TO THE *SHOP*."

WHAT ARE YOU DOING BACK THERE, MONSTER?

SEARCHING THROUGH YOUR MEMORIES FOR SITES OF DEPRAVITY AND TRESPASS THAT WILL ENABLE US TO FORM A *MORE PERFECT UNION*.

UNFORTUNATELY, JON SHAYDE, YOU ARE *NOT BEING COOPERATIVE*.

YOU KNOW, THE BONDING EXPERIENCE CAN BE *EUPHORIC* IF THE HOST IS COMPLIANT. AN ENORMOUS EXCHANGE OF DOPAMINE AND SEROTONIN OFTEN OCCURS.

I AM *NOT* CLETUS KASADY!

AND THAT IS WHY YOU SUFFER-- WHY *YOUR* MIND HAS CONJURED UP THIS GRISLY SCENE--TO MAKE SENSE OF WHAT IS HAPPENING TO YOU.

WHERE ARE WE?

IN TRANSIT. IN THE CRAWL SPACE BEHIND EVERY CHILD'S CLOSET AND EVERY DARK THOUGHT THAT EVER WAS.

I'LL FIGHT YOU. I'LL FIGHT YOU EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

OH, I KNOW...

JAMAICA, QUEENS.

"...AND THAT IS WHY YOU WILL BREAK."

@gooeyguy430
My cousin in Crown Heights confirms: The diner was all him. They're trying to cover it up, but he's fully back, baby!

@carnijFTW
You see that skinny Spider-Man down there? His back was all torn up and [redacted]. He musta [redacted] him up, son!

@gooeyguy430
Heh!

@symbiGOAT212
We should get down there and take trophies. I got one of his old shanks from Ryker's off of ebay yesterday. it's still got blood on it!

@carnijFTW
Why'd you buy one of his shanks? He was mid AF till the symbiote found him and you know it.

ROXX NEWS

DINER

Terror at Brooklyn Diner

@symbiGOAT212
Are you insane? it's a piece of history!

@gooeyguy430
LAME history, LMAO.

@carnijFTW
Hey, where you think he's gonna hit next? I'm excited, man.

Terror at Bro

STARK UNLIMITED HQ. GREENWICH VILLAGE.

@carnijFTW
Where you think Cletus Kasady is right now?

ABBY, WHERE ARE WE ON CANNIBALIZING THE SALVAGED IRON MAN SUITS, PLEASE?

ALMOST EXACTLY WHERE WE WERE WHEN YOU ASKED ME FIFTEEN MINUTES AGO, DR. PHIPPS.

CAN WE GO HOME NOW?

WE LEAVE WHEN THE WORK IS DONE, ***ABBY***. NOT BEFORE.

WORDS TO LIVE BY!

KRSSH!

OH MY GOD, IS...IS THAT YURI?!

HEY, ROBOT SCIENTISTS! I'M CLETUS, AND MY RATHER LACKLUSTER ***HYPE MAN*** HERE IS ***KEN!***

SAY HI TO THE NICE ROBOT SCIENTISTS, KEN.

HI.

NOW, WHICH ONE OF YOU BRAIN GENIUSES IS GOING TO TAKE ME TO ***TONY STARK?***

SECURITY

M-MISTER STARK IS NO LONGER RUNNING THIS COMPANY. MISTER ***HENG*** IS THE NEW OWNER.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME, SLICK?

DR. PH-PHIPPS.

PUH-PUH-PETE. IT'S JUST PETE.

WELL, ***PUH-PUH-PETE***, I GOT A SLIGHT PROBLEM WITH THE OLD TICKER, SEE...

IS...IS THAT ***REPULSOR TECH?***

COULDN'T TELL YA. ALL I KNOW IS, IT'S BUSTED AND IT STINGS LIKE A %$&#.

CAN YOU FIX IT?

OF COURSE NOT.

STARK MADE THIYYYEEAAARRGHH!!!

FWWSSSHH!!!

AHEEE!

SETTLE DOWN! PUH-PUH-PETE JUST NEEDED TO BE MADE AN EXAMPLE OF, BUT THE REST OF YOU ARE GONNA FIX ME...RIGHT?

WE ***CAN'T.*** STARK'S ARMOR SPECS WERE NEVER SHARED WITH HIS ENGINEERS.

W-WE WOULDN'T KNOW HOW TO BEGIN REPAIRING... **WHATEVER IT IS YOU ARE.**

WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY: "IF YOU CAN'T REPAIR, **REPLACE.**"

WH-WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

THAT.

I WANT YOU TO PUT ***THAT*** IN ***ME***.

AND JUST LIKE THAT, I REALIZE THE ***CLETUS KASADY SHOW*** HAS BARELY BEGUN.

NNN!

BROOKLYN.

HOW YOU HOLDIN' UP, KID?

BEEN BETTER, SCORPION. BUT--NN!--I HEAL REAL FAST. COUPLE DAYS ON THE COUCH AND I'LL BE ALL SET.

YEAH. WELL, YOU AIN'T GETTIN' 'EM.

-SIGH-

THAT'S WHAT I FIGURED.

YOUR **CAPE KILLERS** FOUND KASADY, *HUH?* WHERE IS HE?

HE'S BEEN SPOTTED AT THE OLD STARK BUILDING. HE AIN'T EXACTLY BEING SUBTLE ABOUT IT NEITHER.

COME ON, SPIDER-MAN...

"...IT'S GAME TIME."

YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND, WE HAVE NO IDEA IF THE EXTREMIS NANOTECH IN YOUR SYSTEM WILL EVEN **ACCEPT** THESE OUTSIZED STARK SENTINEL COMPONENTS.

HEY, YOU WOULDN'T BE TRYING TO POISON ME WITH **SPIKED TECH**, WOULD YOU, DOC?

O-OF COURSE NOT, I...

QUITE RIGHT. STILL, I FIGURE A LITTLE **INSURANCE** COULDN'T HURT.

HEY, KEN...

I'M HERE.

I NEED SOMEONE TO WATCH MY SIX WHILE THESE BRAINIACS TRICK ME OUT LIKE A BEST BUY.

...

I HAVE NO WEAPONS AND **ONE HAND.**

YOU KNOW WHAT, KEN? YOU'RE RIGHT.

I FIGURE IT'S TIME TO REPAY YOUR **LOYALTY.**

ARE YOU READY FOR YOUR **GLOW-UP?**

WAIT, WHAT ARE YOU--?

IT'S HAPPENING. IT'S FINALLY ***HAPPENING***.

ORGANIC POLYMERS AND MICROCIRCUITRY SEEPING INTO MY BONES, MAKING ME STRONG.

YESSSSS!!!

A HIDEOUS, MAGGOTY MIND TASTES MY THOUGHTS, TONGUING THE MEATY DELICACIES AND...

WAIT...

WAIT...

NO, ***I'M*** SUPPOSED TO BE IN CONTROL. IT'S NOT FAIR!

CONTROL? YOU NEVER HAD IT.

NOW JUST RELAX, AND LET OL' CLETUS TAKE THE WHEEL.

SORRY, KEN. THERE'S ONLY ONE PERSON I TRUST TO LOOK AFTER MY INTERESTS...

...AND THAT'S ***ME***.

MY NAME IS KENNETH NEELY, AND NOT SO VERY LONG AGO, I HAD A WILL OF MY OWN.

WHAMM

UFFF!!!

HMM. SPEEDSTER.

WHOA, A BIG MONSTER AND A LITTLE MONSTER! WHOSE ASS DO I KICK FIRST?

OH, KEEE-NN!!!

LITTLE HELP?

I GOTCHA, BIG DADDY.

YOU'RE CALLED **HIGHTAIL**, RIGHT? LIKE A **RABBIT?** WELL, WATCH OUT, YOU NIPPY LITTLE CRITTER...

UNNN!!!

...THE FLOOR IS LAVA!!!

WHAT THE %@$#?!

GET... GET IT OFF ME!!!

SHRAAAK

GOTTA SAY, THIS OLD TECH STILL PACKS A WALLOP!

"WHO'S LAUGHING NOW?!"

NNN!

SWOK

SEE, I **COULDA** GONE WITH A CROWD-PLEASING *EMPIRE STRIKES BACK* QUOTE JUST NOW, BUT I THOUGHT TO MYSELF, "NO, TONY! RAIMI REAL ONES NEED TO BE FED TOO."

NNN! THE PAAAAA!!!NNN...

AAH, I'M JUST PLAYIN', TASKMASTER.

YOU BLEW YOUR SURPRISE ENTRANCE ON KEN'S **STUMP**, MORON.

SHLOORRPP

NOW SLEEP TIGHT WHILE I **JULIENNE** YOU!

KAPOW

THWIP

WHA--?

MY DUDE, I ALREADY ZAPPED YOU **TWICE** TONIGHT...

...WHY ARE THERE **ALWAYS** MORE OF YOU?!

UGGGHH!!!

HURRY NOW!

AND REMEMBER, I WANT **ACCESS**...

T-TO--GKK! --WHAT?

HEARTS AND MINDS, SWEETHEART!

I WANT 'EM TO LOOK AT THEIR PHONES AND SEE **ME**!

AND AS FOR **YOU**, YOU LITTLE RUNT...

...WASN'T IT YOUR BEDTIME **HOURS** AGO?

SKREEE!!!

I'M GONNA COOK YOU OUTTA THAT THING, FREAK!

NOT IF I C-COOK YOU F-FIRST!!!

AAIIIEEE, GET ME OUUUTTT!!!

HUH. I THOUGHT YOU RUNNY SYMBIOTE GUYS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE TOUGH.

OH WELL. THAT'S ALL FOR YOU, I GUE--

HA! ARMOR'S NOT SO WELL INSULATED ON THE INSIDE IS IT, ELECTRO?!

I DON'T CARE HOW MANY MINI-ME'S YOU GOT STINKIN' UP THE PLACE, KASADY...

...WE'LL GO THROUGH ALL OF 'EM!

SHRRAKKK

HONESTLY, MAC, HOW MANY HOLES I GOTTA PUT IN YOU TONIGHT BEFORE YOU GET THE MESSAGE?

WHOOK

AWW, SHUT THE $#@% UP!

SKREEEE!!!

KARRASSH

SKREEEEEEEEE...

TOO MUCH?

LITTLE BIT, YEAH.

BUT BE READY TO DO IT AGAIN IF I CAN'T STOP KAIJU-KASADY OVER THERE.

WHY DIDN'T I JUST HELP MY PARENTS MOVE?

MOVING BOXES. SO--*NN!*--THERAPEUTIC.

YOU'RE TOO LATE, KID...

OH YEAH? REMEMBER *THIS* MOVE?

HERE COMES THE ENTRÉE...

HA!

YOU *REALLY* THOUGHT THIRD TIME'D BE THE CHARM, SQUIRT?!

FWAAAHHHIT

YYEAAAARRGGHH!!!

ROBOT SCIENTISTS, I GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU...

I CAN...I CAN *FEEL* THE BUILDING...THE WHOLE CITY...

BUZZING IN THE WIRES. THE BACKDOOR TO EVERYTHING!

SO...MANY... NEW...MEAT... PUPPETS...TO PLAY WITH!

WHAT JUST HAPPENED? DID WE WIN?

OH GOD. OH GOD, HELP US.

I'M GONNA GO AHEAD AND TAKE THAT AS A "NO."

I--I ISOLATED THE OLD ESCAPE BACKBONE SO HE COULDN'T INFECT ANY OTHER CARRIERS, BUT HE'LL STILL REACH SO MANY PEOPLE. I... HE WAS GOING TO KILL ME IF I DIDN'T PUT HIM IN THE WIRES!

...

ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS CREEP'S *ONLINE?*

"I'M TELLING YOU HE'S INJECTED HIMSELF INTO THE BUILDING'S LEARNING NEURAL NETWORK.

"FROM THERE, HE CAN FREELY SPREAD THROUGHOUT TONY STARK'S ESCAPE SYSTEM--EVERY HOST, EVERY WIRE.

"YOU SAW WHAT HE DID TO SOMEONE WITH SOME BARELY FUNCTIONING ARMOR TECH--TURNED HIM INTO A ***LETHAL PUPPET***...

"...HE'S GOING TO DO THE SAME THING TO THE WHOLE ***CITY***. AND THEN..."

BRRR

THE CARNAGE CONTINUES!

© 2023 MARVEL. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

ZONE